

SOURCES OF LOVE AND HATE

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immediately performs the action which he obviously wished to do, but felt to be guilty, viz. putting his table-napkin into his orange squash and sucking it. The inner meaning of this incident is, however, not given by such a simple statement.

He ends up by turning away in disgust from the nipple which he has made with the napkin. His own guilt has been projected on to Mrs. I., and so she (in the last resort, his mother) seems to him to be so dirty and dangerous that he has to turn away from her.

Jane gives us a content for her (projected) guilt which approximates more to adult standards (Jane was a good deal older than the other children). She expresses her opinion of Priscilla as someone who is "selfish, cross and sly, and always tries to get the best things for herself".

Thus, the occasions which provide these feelings of guilt and shame in young children can be summed up in two main groups, as (a) the various forms of open aggression—screaming, biting, wetting, defaecating, breaking things, being greedy, being unable or unwilling to mend or tidy things; and (b) certain forms of libidinal satisfaction, such as thumb-sucking and both anal and genital masturbation. The psycho-analysis of children and adults has, however, shown that in these latter situations it is not the libidinal wish-fulfilment pure and simple, which makes them also guilty and dangerous, but again the aggressive elements—the secret attack upon the parents, and secret stealing of sexual pleasure. As we saw when discussing masturbation, the actual pleasure is compulsively sought mainly as a reassurance against the terrors of punishment for the aggressive attack, to prove again that it is safe to do it.

It can therefore be seen that the child's feelings of guilt are

closely related to his aggressive tendencies.

(2) The children's ideas as to the punishments they deserve and may receive for these guilty doings are various.

Benjie threatens to hit Mrs. I. in the face when he fears that she is going to punish him—so that is what he thought she would do to him. Paul says, "The policeman has been whipping the boys, it's quite right, isn't it ? " And a group of the children play the game of Dr. Faustus, when " Dr. Faustus " whips all the children.

Most of the children play from time to time at putting each other in prison or at being put in prison by Mrs. I. They will sometimes use this as a real threat, meant to be taken seriously,